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DATE: November 21, 2005

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 12

TO: **MS Amendment**  
**Group Art Unit: 3732**  
**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

FAX NUMBER: (571) 273-8300

FROM: **Beth A. Vrioni**  
**Patents and Trademarks**  
**D-0377, AP6A-1**  
**Telephone: (847) 938-7576**

**MESSAGE:**

Applicants: Landry, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/697,793  
Filing Date: October 30, 2003  
Examiner Name: (not yet assigned)  
Title: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS  
Attorney Docket: 5259-10700US03

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above are the following documents:

1. Transmittal Letter (1 Page) in duplicate
2. Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)

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NO. 7050 P. 2

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Landry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,793

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS  
AND METHODS

Attorney Docket No.: 5259-10700.US.03

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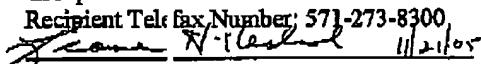
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MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents

Group Art Unit 3732

Recipient Telephone Number: 571-273-8300

  
Leanne Hillesland

11/21/05

Leanne Hillesland Date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above entitled SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS is the following:

1. Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount for any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR §1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Landry, et al

  
Beth A. Vrioni  
Registration No. 39,869  
Attorney for Applicants

ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
Customer No.: 23492  
Telephone: (847) 938-7576  
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Landry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,793

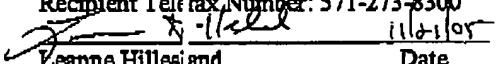
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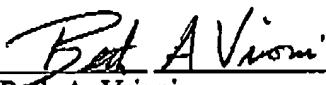
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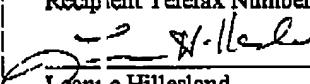
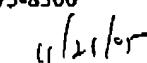
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Examiner: (not yet assigned)

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Group Art Unit 3732  
Recipient Telefax Number: 571-273-8300 Leah C. Hillesland DatePRELIMINARY AMENDMENTMS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application,  
Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and request their entry into the  
record.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Landry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,793

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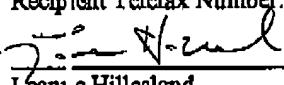
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Recipient Telefax Number: 571-273-8300

 Leanne Hillesland

11/21/05  
Date

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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